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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 17. SATURDAY, JULY 11TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Great Demonstration

SUNDAY NEXT,

TO CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER

To follow up the expressions of sympathy and promises to consider their demand which be made to the East London Deputation, by the introduction of an immediate Government measure to give a vote to every women over 21.

PROCESSION from 400 OLD FORD ROAD, 6 p.m., via East India Dock Gates, Poplar, to CANNING TOWN PUBLIC HALL, Barking Road, 8 p.m.

Speakers—SYLVIA PANKHURST, GEORGE LANSBURY, Mrs. DRAKE, Miss PATERSON, and Women Voters from Overseas Dominions

Passport to the meeting, a copy of the "Woman's Dreadnought," which may be bought for ½d. at the doors.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, July 11th—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Reception to Delegates from British Dominions Overseas. 7.30 to 10.30.

Sunday, July 12th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town Public Hall. Speakers—Sylvia Pankhurst, George Lansbury, Mrs. Julia Scurr, Mrs. Drake, and some of the Delegates from British Dominions Overseas.

Monday, July 13th, 3 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow.—Members' meeting.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow.—Speakers' Class.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Rd., Canning Town.
8.30 p.m.—Swiss Cottage, South Hackney—Miss Rushbrooke.

Tuesday, July 14th, 8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar—Miss Rickards.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Miss Hicks.

Wednesday, July 15th, 8 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd., Poplar—Mr. Laski.
8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Rd.—Miss Lynch.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town—Speakers' Class.

Thursday, July 16th, 3 p.m.—319 East India Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting—Mrs. A. J. Webbe.
2.30 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Rd., Limehouse—Women's Meeting.
8 p.m.—Choir—400 Old Ford Rd.
8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd., Canning Town—Miss Prankerd.
8 p.m.—Woodstock Rd., Poplar.

Friday, July 17th, 8.30 p.m.—Beckton Rd., Canning Town—Miss Rushbrooke.
8 p.m.—Piggott St., Poplar—Mr. Johnson.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Members' meeting.

Sunday, July 19th, 8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, 400 Old Ford Rd., Bow—Sylvia Pankhurst and others. Music: Miss McDonald and friends.

FREE CHURCHMEN PROTEST.

Several leading Non-Conformist Ministers including the Rev. R. J. Campbell, the Rev. R. F. Horton, the Rev. W. E. Orchard, the Rev. J. H. Shakespeare and the Rev. J. M. Lloyd Thomas, have addressed a protest against forcible feeding to the Prime Minister. They say: "We do not believe that if public opinion had realised what forcible feeding has involved it would have tolerated it at all. At any rate, we cannot tolerate it. We regard it as a dangerous and exasperating element in the present deplorable state of affairs, and we cannot stand silently by and see Parliament adjourned, possibly over a period of many months, while forcible feeding is going on in English prisons." "It is a cardinal principle of statesmanship that punishment of political offence should go hand in hand with redress of grievance. At all times and in all places in the history of the world where the grievance of exclusion from citizenship and equality has been so keenly felt in the excluded class as to lead to violence, coercion has failed to do anything but inflame, embitter and prolong that violence. We believe it is scarcely supposed by anyone that women can be permanently excluded from citizenship. The question at issue is rather how far public feeling is to be embittered and outraged before the question is settled. Sympathisers who would like to add their signatures to the protest should send them to the Hon. Secretary, 133 Salisbury Square, E.C."

THE BISHOP, MILITANCY AND THE VOTE!

A SIDE ISSUE.

In sending the following letter to the *Times*, the Bishop of London says that the idea has got abroad that he condones militancy. He is nervously anxious to free himself from this imputation, and recalls the fact that he has said from time to time that militancy is "the devil's work," that Suffragettes are "doing evil that good may come," that "God's will can only be done in God's way," that "there can be no blessing on the vote obtained in this manner for women." He also speaks of himself as "a late convert to the limited franchise;" but he protests against the forcible feeding of Suffragettes because, he says "It seems to leave them physical and mental wrecks." He says: "I make no complaint about drugging, as I have it on the authority of a physician whose word I accept, that nothing is given except medicine essential to their health." In reply to this particular statement, we would ask the Bishop whether he disbelieves the evidence of the doctors who have found proof that bromide has been administered, in the women who have been released from Holloway. If the Bishop does not disbelieve these statements, we would ask him whether he realises that doctors and all who have knowledge of the effect of this drug, administer it to their patients with the very greatest reluctance, even in cases of most acute pain, because of its dangerous physical, mental and moral effects, especially when given over a long period.

The Bishop's letter to the Home Secretary, which we print below, is dated February 16th, and it will be noticed that he says: "I am keeping this letter private; but I have to reserve the right some day to make it public if it is thought necessary to continue forcible feeding, as my two letters which have been published have been wrongly taken as a justification of it, which they were not intended to be."

A BISHOP'S LETTER.

London House, *Feb. 16th*, 1914.

Dear Home Secretary,—I have been very anxious to respect the confidence you placed in me in allowing me to enter Holloway Prison twice and interview three of the prisoners, and I purposely refrained from doing anything or saying anything at the time which might seem like "breaking my parole," but the statements made by all three prisoners, in two cases of constant indigestion, and in the third case of daily vomiting caused by forcible feeding, led me to make some careful inquiries as to its effect from those outside who had undergone it, and from those who had treated the patients suffering from the effects of it.

I send you now three enclosures:—

1. A statement by Dr. Flora Murray, who has attended many of the patients. She is not herself a militant Suffragette.

2. A description by Dr. Frances Ede of the effect of forcible feeding upon herself.

3. An account of treatment given to Mary Richardson.

I interviewed Mary Richardson for nearly an hour. She was a very quiet, sensible-looking girl, a lady, and a religious girl who had persuaded herself that she was in this way fighting for the welfare of oppressed women and children. The account she gave me tallies with the account enclosed which she gave to Dr. Flora Murray in all main essentials, but was not expressed with the same "animus" which seems to characterise the enclosure.

She said she thought that Dr. Forword did his best to do it gently, but nothing could prevent the pain of forcing the tube through the nose, especially after it had been done several times, and that the two jerks with which the tube had to be withdrawn (no doubt in order to prevent the dripping tube infecting the lungs) gave terrible discomfort. She said also that the mental effect of lying after the operation looking at a blank wall with no books or companions waiting for another such operation in seven hours was liable to unhinge the mind, and this may account for the terrible nightmares described by another prisoner.

I had an opportunity when doing some work in East London of seeing for half an hour Sylvia Pankhurst, whose account tallied in all important details with the account given by Mary Richardson, although I saw her ten days before and in no connection with one another.

Miss Pankhurst, who was a very calm, collected, and evidently able woman, said that after being forcibly fed she found herself trembling and sobbing, and that the effect of it upon the nervous system was indescribable.

She complained, like the others, of constant indigestion after it.

I will not weary you with the accounts of any more, but I must tell you that, so far as my opinion is worth anything, I have been convinced that we are not justified in treating delicate women in this way.

All analogies from the artificial feeding of invalids or even the forcible feeding of lunatics are, I think, false. It is part of the creed (utterly mistaken as I have told them individually and collectively) professed by these women to struggle against the feeding, and it is just the feeding in spite of the struggle which produces these disastrous results.

I have no right whatever to advise you what to do, except the right of a friend and of one who honestly tries to see the question in all its bearings.

I quite see that you cannot set free unconditionally those who may burn the houses of peaceful citizens, but I believe that it would be more humane to allow the prisoners to refuse food and then, if they reduce themselves to a state of weakness by this course of action, to release them for a time under the Act which, I had imagined, was passed for the express purpose of making forcible feeding unnecessary.

Be that as it may, I have liberated my soul on the subject. I am keeping this letter private as I do not wish to embarrass you in your difficult task of combining mercy with

(*continued on page 67*)

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND MILITANCY.

MRS. PANKHURST'S PLANS.

To the Editor of the "Times."

Sir,—I have read the Bishop of London's letter in yesterday's issue of the *Times* with great interest. The Bishop's condemnation of militancy involving injury to property, when practised by women, leads me to ask him two questions:—

(1) Why does he condemn militancy on the part of women while, presumably, he approves (since he remains silent) the preparations made by men in Ireland to destroy, not only property, but human life?

(2) Since he no doubt agrees with the Unionist Party (and, indeed with most people,) that there are circumstances which justify violence, even of the most extreme kind, does he not think (I quote from his letter to the Home Secretary) that "foul deeds done by men to innocent children and to women who have been driven by poverty and misfortune to become the victims of men's lust," and to these I would add the fact, as proved by medical evidence, of the infection in marriage of mothers with a foul disease fatal to the race, are not infinitely greater justification for revolt than what, after all, is a question not so much of human need as of the machinery of government?

The main object of the Bishop's letter is, I take it, to protest against the torture of forcible feeding, and he now makes public his correspondence with the Home Secretary in February last.

Since that time Mr. McKenna has used his power under the "Cat and Mouse" Act with the utmost rigour, and having realised its ineffectiveness as a weapon of coercion he has now decided to forcibly feed, not only women "who have been guilty of arson," but also those who have been convicted of "minor offences," and even those who are as yet untried and, therefore, presumably innocent of all offence except that of wishing for a vote.

Among these untried prisoners are women charged with the crimes of "incitement" and "conspiracy," which Sir Edward Carson and his associates are openly and avowedly committing daily, and for which I was sentenced little more than a year ago to three years' penal servitude.

Since my sentence I have been eight times released, after hunger and thirst strikes, because I was in danger of death. I am now at liberty and could, if I so desired, altogether escape further imprisonment.

I ask you to publish this letter because I desire to inform the Home Secretary and his colleagues that to-morrow I shall openly resume my work for the enfranchisement of women, and that when they have effected my re-arrest with its usual accompaniment of brutality and insult I shall resume the strike. I challenge them to apply to me the same treatment of forcible feeding that is used in the case of my friends.

In his letter to the Bishop of London, Mr. McKenna states that our object in refusing food is to make difficult the enforcement of the law. He is right. We militant Suffragists believe in the principle that "just government rests upon the consent of the governed obtained by constitutional means," and we are determined to make it impossible for the present so-called Liberal Government to continue any longer their denial of representation to our sex. They must either obtain the consent of women to legislation and to the administration of the laws by giving them the Parliamentary vote, or they must give us death.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
E. PANKHURST.

Lincoln's Inn House, W.,
July 7th.

Mrs. Pankhurst was re-arrested outside Lincoln's Inn House on Wednesday, July 8th, and is now serving her ninth term of imprisonment.

DOCTORS' PROTEST.

Seventy-one doctors in different parts of the country, who are members of the Medical Men's Forcible Feeding Protest Committee, have written to Mr. McKenna to beg him to receive a deputation on the subject of Forcible Feeding. They say: "Forcible Feeding as being carried out in His Majesty's prisons is a system of torture based upon violence and depending for its success upon the infliction of pain. It has caused grave bodily injury in many instances and it always leads to serious impairment of health."

The Boston *Globe* asks: "Is the English Suffragette the mouse or the cat?"

A St. Louis paper has recently published a cartoon showing the British lion fleeing for his life from a small mouse.

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Neave's Food

ensures healthy happy children, stamina to invalids, and robust old age by its bone and body-building qualities. Specially recommended by "The Lancet," "British Medical Journal," Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D., Medical Officer of Health and Analyst for Dublin, etc., and other famous Authorities.

Used in Rearing the Royal Children of Russia, and thousands of all classes testify to its excellent virtues. For instance: Mrs. KAIN, 6 Rockingham Road, Doncaster, writes:—"DR.—ADVISED ME TO GIVE MY TWIN BOYS OF SIX WEEKS OLD YOUR NEAVE'S FOOD. I have never lost a night's rest, and they have cut their teeth without any trouble. Your Food also does away with all need of medicine and castor oil."—Aug. 22, 1912. "Hints about Baby" sent free. Sample for 3d. postage mentioning this publication to JOSIAH R. NEAVE & CO., Fordingbridge, England.

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A. GLIKSTEN, *Advertisement Manager.*

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No. 17.—Saturday, July 11th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

THE VALUE OF THE VOTE

It has become almost fashionable nowadays to deprecate the usefulness of the vote. Many people seek to prove that the vote is powerless, by pointing to the poverty and destitution existing amongst working people and to the miserable housing and other conditions under which vast numbers of them live, although working men hold seven-tenths of the electoral power.

But what should we blame for the poverty and misery of the workmen but the ignorance and carelessness of these very workmen, who have not insisted on securing better conditions. Some men who profess to be politically advanced, say that they fear the advent of votes for women, because they imagine that women are reactionary. But when women consider the world around them, they have cause indeed to wonder that any man should fear that women could possibly make the muddle any worse than it is! Even the children in the American George Junior Republics, and other juvenile self-governing communities, have made infinitely wiser laws and conditions for themselves than those under which we are living in the England of to-day. The Bible tells us that certain ancient lands and cities were destroyed because the princes were rebellious, the shepherds slumbered and the merchants multiplied beyond the stars of heaven, everyone loving gifts and following after rewards, judging not the cause of the widow and the fatherless. God was wrathful, because, though the land was filled with silver and gold, neither was there any end to their treasures, powerful men ate up the vineyards and the spoil of the poor was in their houses. They said :—

"When will the new moon be gone, that we may sell corn, and the Sabbath that we may set forth wheat, making the ephah small and the shekel great, falsifying the balances by deceit, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes: yea, and sell them the refuse of the wheat ?"

The Lord cried through the mouth of His prophets :—

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people *slightly*, saying: 'peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abominations ? No they were not ashamed, neither could they blush. For the hurt of the daughter of my people I am hurt. Is there no balm in Gilead ? Is there no physician there ? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered ? Oh that my head were waters and my eyes a mountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people."

"What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces and grind the faces of my poor."

Do not these words describe for us our own unfortunate country ? Are not our rich men wealthier than those of the ancient cities ? Are not our courts of justice places where the poor enter with trembling, and where cruel and clumsy laws, laws that are always most cruel and clumsy in their application to women, are administered ? In our courts the police evidence, carefully rehearsed and manipulated beforehand, is almost always preferred to that of any number of private citizens.

How little our country does for the widow and the fatherless! Are not the majority of the widows plunged inevitably into the depths of poverty ? In many cases the nation offers no help but the Workhouse, which is little better than a prison, and entails the separation of the mother from her children. If relief is given, it is given grudgingly and surrounded by humiliation. It is too small to furnish even a bare subsistence. The widow must show that she has other money coming to her before she is allowed even the smallest dole. She must join the army of sweated women workers, and how wickedly sweated is that army!

Are not the poor still shamelessly cheated ? They are miserably housed, miserably clothed and fed, though they toil during long hours each day. For their light and fuel they are charged more than the rich. Is not the refuse also sold to them ? In the Bethnal Green Road you may see stalls of old torn and frayed and seemingly useless collars, cuffs and shirt fronts for men, old boots, old clothes, old saucepans, bits of old iron that are all that many poor people can afford to buy.

God may indeed cry out in wrath and tears for the daughters of His people driven to the streets, in their thousands, to earn their bread. Even to-day "peace, peace" is called where there is no peace but war, some slight pretence of healing the hurt of exploited womanhood is made. Wages Boards are set up, as Mr. Asquith told the East London deputation, but the piece work rates for women established by these Boards could yield no more than 13s. a week if the workers remained as fresh and as swift at the end of the long day's toil as they were at the beginning, if no time were wasted going to and from the factory, and there were none of the slack time which is so prevalent in the sweated trades.

A Criminal Law Amendment Act has been passed, but, as in the Piccadilly Flat case, it is used to strike on the one hand at the woman, leaving the young girl victim to earn her living as best she can after her name has been brandished to the world; on the other hand it is used to shield the rich and powerful men who are the authors of the sin, and were not driven to it by want but chose it in idleness and lust. The administrators of this Act have struck at poor dressmakers who have sub-let their premises to those who have put them to unholy uses, at women in the depths of poverty, often the widows of seamen, who, failing any other livelihood, have fallen to keeping down by the docks the cheapest of the houses of ill-fame. The new Act does no more than *pretend* to heal the hurt most slightly, for it provides no means of helping women to earn honourable bread. Men cry "peace, peace," in spite of the bitter competitive warfare in which women are exploited and destroyed. Even pillars of the church, instead of insisting that justice shall be done, are crying "peace, peace" to the women fighting for freedom, upon whom the Government makes fierce and coercive war.

Truly indeed are the poor beaten and their faces ground, now, as in ancient days, for of those who pour into our prisons yearly, one half are sent there because they have not been able to pay the fine imposed, and the vast majority of the remainder, who had no option of paying, are very poor. All but a few would never have come there but for their poverty.

All this is a man's world, men have made it. They have taught women that the moulding of laws and social conditions must be the work of men alone. Women, either in trustful folly, through economic dependence on men, or because as wage earners at the bottom of the industrial ladder they have found the struggle for existence too constant to leave them energy for thought, have acquiesced in this man's doctrine for ages past, and some women even agree to it still.

Men who are impatient for reform and cannot win it, *because they cannot convert enough other men to their way of thought*, blame the voting system for their own inability and the foolishness of other men!

It is quite true that our Cabinet is an autocratic body and that the members of Parliament follow their Party leaders like sheep. But why then do the voters consent to re-elect them ? They can choose other candidates as substitutes when the General Election next comes round. (The men who want women to vote should remember this at the next election.)

If the voters find that the present methods of Government are clumsy, they can remould them by combining to nominate and elect candidates to do so, as the people of certain American States have done.

1. They can insist that the Cabinet Ministers, Judges, Magistrates and others be directly elected by the people.
2. That all Acts, or certain Acts of Parliament shall not become law until they have been adopted by a *referendum* vote of the people.
3. That Bills may be introduced to Parliament, or submitted to the people without being first discussed in Parliament, on the *initiative* of a certain number or percentage of voters. (In the State of Missouri the requisite 23,000 signatures to procure the submission of Votes for Women to the electorate has just been obtained.)
4. That on a petition of a certain number of voters, a referendum of all voters shall be taken as to whether any elected person shall be *recalled* from office, or any law shall be repealed.
5. They can also be just, as the same forward States that have done these other things have been, and give *Votes to Women*. Little though many men politicians care to admit it, this last is the reform that would work greater changes than any other, for women voters in different quarters of the globe are showing themselves to be less Party bound than men, and it is because men vote on the principle of "my party, right or wrong" that their votes count less than they should.

Nothing could prevent any of these things being carried, if the voters would combine in sufficient numbers to secure them. It is useless for men to blame the voting system when the voters have the power to alter it.

Men suffer, but women suffer still more from the poverty and evil conditions that surround us. Women have not the power that men possess to mould the world in which they pass their lives. But women have the right to that power, the right to try what they can do to mend things, the right to join in making anew this harsh old world that has grown up from savage times.

But let us hasten, let us never stand aloof, whilst others strive and are sacrificed.

"Wherefore lookest thou upon men that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devourest the man that is more righteous than he ?"

Let us take courage in fighting for human welfare—men and women are often infinitely more courageous in fighting for private ends than for the common good. And that is wrong, for our lives and well-being must be, and should be, all bound up together. "An injury to one," deep down in the foundations, "is an injury to all." "What can *I* do, what is my share in building the new life of the future ?" everyone of us must ask.

Let us away with slothfulness and contentment. Oh, do not believe that the world must always be as it is! Do not believe that you cannot do your part in making it again.

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed, and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt"

"The Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrows and thy fear and the hard bondage in which thou wast."

"Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria. The planters shall plant and shall eat them as common things."

"They shall not build and another inhabit. They shall not plant and another eat."

"They shall not labour in vain and bring forth trouble."

"Their soul shall be as a watered garden."

"For I will turn their mourning into joy and comfort them and make them rejoice from their sorrow."

Gratefully the old words come to us, like dew in the desert to weary hearts.

Dear women, let us resolve to be braver and more determined, let us refuse ever to be contented until we have won more power to root up evil and plant the good of the many in our own sorrowing land.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

LAWS AND CONDITIONS.

Suffragists are sentenced to three months' imprisonment for free speech, but William Thomas Houghton, a man of 69, who indecently assaulted four little girls in Slough Playing Fields, only got three weeks.

On Saturday night, July 4th, at Quinn's Buildings, Waterloo Road, exciting scenes took place during the arrest of a man accused of assaulting a little girl. All down the narrow stone staircase people tried to strike him. A crowd of many hundreds gathered, and women shouting "lynch him!" tried to get at him with fire irons and brooms. These women knew only too well that assaults upon little girls are treated with a leniency that amounts to indifference by police court magistrates. Whilst women are allowed no part in the making of the laws dealing with such cases, and are forbidden to sit upon the juries which try men guilty of these practices, it is natural that some of them wish to take the law into their own hands.

On Saturday, July 4th, a woman applied to the Willesden magistrate for a vaccination exemption order for her child. She said that as far as she knew, her husband had gone down in the Empress of Ireland, but she had no means of proving his death. It was both the father's wish and her own that the child should not be vaccinated. The magistrate told her that the law did not recognise her as the parent of the child, and that until she could prove the father's death he could not grant the exemption. We conclude therefore that the baby will be vaccinated. What a shame it is! Such cases as this should fire all women with determination to obtain the Parliamentary vote and thereby secure the power to alter this unjust law that says that during the father's life time a married mother is *not* the parent of her child.

It is proposed to form an association of "Working Girls' Restaurants and Dinner Clubs" to provide cheap meals for working girls in certain districts. A year ago a Dinner Club for women and girls was formed for the benefit of workers in the Kingsway locality, where five-penny and three-penny dinners are served to members of the Club, who pay 2d. a month. The members of the club are junior typists, cashiers and shop assistants. There is no doubt that clubs for the provision of cheap meals will be helpful to the underpaid women workers, but we deplore the need of such associations. The wages of a working woman or girl ought to be large enough to enable her to go to any ordinary restaurant for her meals, and should she wish to join a club she ought not to have to exist on three-penny dinners.

When women obtain the Parliamentary vote they will have a weapon to help them to fight to obtain higher wages.

At Bow Street, on July 1st, Violet Jeffries, a girl of 19, was brought before the magistrate because she had been out at a coffee stall in the small hours of the morning. She explained that she had lived with the gipsies and was used to early rising. She complained that "everyone is down on a poor girl." The magistrate said that he wanted to help her, and urged her to go into a "Home," but the girl refused, saying that she must lead a free life. Unfortunately, many people refuse to understand that freedom is dear to women as well as to men.

Mr. Handel Booth said the other day that when the Bill for the Abolition of Child Half-timers was before the House of Commons, the number of Members of Parliament present started at 33, but fell on the first day to 20, and in the last division, on the fifth day, to 18, of whom half were writing letters. If women had been considering a question of this kind, such disgraceful apathy would not have been manifested. It is time that Members of Parliament were obliged to answer for their neglect to women voters!

An old woman of 74, Anne Connor, was, recently sent to prison for 15 months for stealing blouses. It was said that she had been 60 years in prison for petty offences. What a tragic instance of the present prison systems failure to reform ?

Women may not vote. They are denied a share in the making of the laws ; but bitterly and harshly are they punished if they break them. Women's labour is sweated so grossly that many women are literally driven by starvation to take other people's goods.

I promise to give £ s. d. to the "No Vote, No Rent" Strikers' Fund after the strike is started.

Name .....

Address .....

I promise to give £ s. d. to the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike propaganda.

Name .....

Address .....

I promise to join the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike.

Name .....

Address .....

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justice, but I have to reserve the right some day to make it public if it is thought necessary to continue forcible feeding, as my two letters which have been published have been wrongly taken as a justification of it, which they were not intended to be.

I do hope that in time these women will see not only the moral perverseness but also the political folly of their course of action. I lose no opportunity of endeavouring to persuade them of both, but meanwhile I think that we, on our parts, must remember that most of them sincerely believe that they are embarked on a moral crusade to prevent the repetition of foul deeds done by men to innocent children (we have, as you know, many homes full of these injured innocents) and to women who have been driven by poverty or misfortune to become the victims of men's lusts, and that the acquisition of the vote for women is the one and only chance of effecting this deliverance, and that the keeping of their demand in some striking way before the country is the only way to prevent themselves from being cold-shouldered out of the way.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) A. F. LONDON.

P.S.—I have noticed, of course, your statement in Parliament that no women are being forcibly fed now. If you feel doubtful about the value of the evidence I am submitting to you, let me suggest at least that before forcible feeding is resorted to again a committee of five leading doctors and surgeons should be appointed, of which one at least should be a woman surgeon like Mrs. Scharlieb, and another a woman doctor, to report to you on the whole matter.

Mr. McKenna gives his usual type of reply to the Bishop. He excuses himself from answering in detail both statements and arguments, saying that he has received numerous similar statements, and has always found on inquiry "that these were inaccurate in detail and grossly exaggerated in their general effect." Mr. McKenna has never instituted a proper inquiry into forcible feeding. He may have privately questioned the officials concerned, but the victims of forcible feeding have never been given an opportunity to testify. One-sided private inquiries are of course absolutely valueless.

Mr. McKenna says to the Bishop: "You yourself have investigated a statement of this sort made by Mary Ansell, and you know the result." Our readers will remember that the Bishop of London went to Holloway to investigate Miss Ansell's statement that she had heard the cries of pain of a prisoner during forcible feeding, but on his first visit to the prison he saw the wrong woman. The final result of his investigation of Miss Ansell's statement is to be found in the Bishop's letter, and his conviction that the process leaves the women "physical and mental wrecks."

Mr. McKenna adds that it is useless to appoint the committee that the Bishop suggests, because there is an "insuperable difficulty in finding any complete alternative" to forcible feeding. He concludes by saying that the women who refuse food "are actuated solely by their purpose to render difficult the enforcement of the law, and to bring the administration of justice (we should prefer to say injustice) into contempt." Mr. McKenna is absolutely right in making this statement, as Mrs. Pankhurst agrees in the letter which we print in our columns; and the fact of the matter is that the Bishop and others who adopt the same attitude have taken up an absolutely untenable position.

The Bishop declares that he is a Suffragist, but he allies himself with the Anti-Suffragist Government which prefers to engage in a warfare with militant women rather than give to both militant and non-militant women the vote. He says: "It is just because I am so strong an anti-militant that I am so anxious that *our own weapons* shall not be tainted." The Bishop is right in using the phrase "our own weapons," for he is showing that he realises that he cannot quietly wash his hands of the responsibility for forcibly feeding and coercion, and comfortably say: "This is no affair of mine."

The Bishop holds a position of great social and political influence. He is a member of the majority in the House of Lords. If he were to throw all his power into the balance on the side of women's enfranchisement, the accession of strength that he would bring, combined with all the other pressure that is being exerted, would probably be strong enough to bring it about this year. But he wastes his time with a side issue. He tries to make himself believe that he has "liberated his soul" by pleading that instead of being forcibly fed the prisoners should be allowed to remain without food until reduced to extreme weakness and then released for a time, to be dragged back to prison under the "Cat and Mouse" Act. The "Cat and Mouse" Act is a mean and miserable subterfuge, and the Bishop's attitude, though we believe he does not yet recognise it, is a mean and miserable attempt to put his conscience to sleep, in order that he may acquiesce in the continued refusal of the political rights to which women are entitled.

As one of the women to whom the Bishop of London refers in his letter, I would say to the Bishop that nothing can put an end to the torture which women are suffering, except the granting of Votes to Women. Forcible feeding and the "Cat and Mouse" Act, though they have injured us physically, are helping us to obtain our object, because they are awaking sluggard consciences to the injustice of refusing our demand.

The Bishop says that he is "a recent convert to the limited franchise." Why should he wish the woman's franchise to be limited? Christ has given no justification for differentiating between women and women, and class and class. In social, as well as spiritual matters, Christ recognised the right and the need of the poorest, the lowliest and the weakest. But the fact that the Bishop admits himself convinced of the justice of Votes for Women (even in a limited form), makes his sin in refusing to insist with all his might upon the settlement of the question without delay greater than that of the Anti-Suffragist Ministers who withhold the vote.

The Bishop of London accuses the Suffragettes of doing evil that good may come, yet he takes the part of the Government that is doing evil that evil may come. He says that God's will can only be done in God's way, but does it not occur to him to ask himself whether all this strife and turmoil has not arisen because the Government of our country is being carried on by methods that are contrary to the will of God? The Bishop says that there can be no blessing on Votes for Women obtained by militancy; but does he believe there can be the blessing of God on a Government, or on a country of men which refuses to women — their fellow human beings — the political rights which they themselves enjoy?

We wish most earnestly to assure the Bishop that he is wasting his time in trying to stop forcible feeding. When women have secured the vote—the only constitutional means of influencing Parliament—they will cease to break the law, cease to go to prison and hunger strike, and, therefore, cease to be forcibly fed. Let the Bishop work for Votes for Women if he really wishes that forcible feeding shall be stopped.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

'SUFFRAGETTE' PRINTER CONVICTED

Mr. Sidney Granville Drew, the manager of the Victoria House Printing Co., was, on July 7th, indicted for incitements to arson and damage to property by printing the *Suffragette*. It will be remembered that the type-setting of the *Suffragette* was done by the Utopia Press, and that the Victoria House Printing Co. merely machined the type, so that, as newspapers are always rushed out in a hurry, Mr. Drew could scarcely know what was in the paper each week. One of the extracts cited by Mr. Bodkin was a quotation from the Bible, "those that walk in darkness shall see great light." Mr. Bodkin said that the great light referred to was a Sutton mansion in flames. Mr. Bodkin said that the value of the property burnt down by Suffragettes in 1913 amounted to £510,150, and that 4,000 letter boxes had been damaged. Mr. Drew was found guilty and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. All lovers of liberty should protest against this unwarrantable interference with the freedom of the Press. This country appears to be rapidly becoming Russianised.

PRISON DOCTORS LIBELLED.

The doctors of Holloway prison have commenced libel actions against Dr. Moxon and Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Tuke, and other officials of the W.S.P.U., because they have stated that drugs have been administered to the Suffragettes in prison to prevent them struggling, and to make it easier for them to be forcibly fed.

Miss Dorothy Evans has commenced proceedings for assault and false imprisonment against Captain Ricardo of the Ulster Volunteers, who dragged her away from a Unionist meeting, and flung her into a ditch.

Votes for Women can be surely won by the "No Vote, No Rent Strike" send in your names for it at once.

A NEW OUTRAGE!

Forcible Feeding by the Bowel.

Dr. Mabel Jones has written the following statement, after examining Miss Frances Gordon, who was sent to prison on June 23rd:

Released about 5 o'clock on Friday, July 22nd. On 24th, forcible feeding began twice a-day—25th, 26th, 27th, 28th. On 29th, inst, in the morning, Mr. P. G. Stewart, J.P., went to see prisoners. Injection into bowel given which made her drowsy—she felt stupid and unable to speak to him. Not fed at all that day, but from then until released, had injections into bowel three times a day—never retained—as well as forcible feeding twice or once a-day. Never allowed to see what was injected—told it was salt and water to do her good—but it returned, she said, black, and the clothes she brought out with her are stained with a dark green stain. This will be analytically examined. She was allowed to see soap and water enemas which were given, but never this. When asleep, she was dragged to the edge of the bed on her side, and the injections given by wardresses. The quantity of food given by the tube had to be diminished every day—it was never retained—given even when she was being sick. One day she was still vomiting when the doctor wanted to feed her. He was very impatient and said: "Come away, come away you are billious, all out of order." Went on with preparations—she begged for a minute to be allowed to wash out her mouth. This was given and he put his face close to hers and whispered "Drink some, drink some—no one will know—I won't tell." This was often done.

Seen at midnight on July 3rd, her appearance was appalling. Like a famine victim—the skin brown, her face-bones standing out, her eyes half shut, her voice a whisper, her hands quite cold, her pulse a thread—her wrist-joints were slightly swollen, stiff and painful—this, not from rough handling, but from poisoning. The breath was most offensive, unlike anything I have smelt before, and the contents of the bowel, over which she had no control, smelt the same.

(Signed) MABEL JONES,
14 Albion Street, Glasgow.

ACTS OF REBELLION TO A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT.

Two Suffragettes, who dared to drop some handbills from a balcony in Edinburgh, whilst the King and Queen were driving past, were seized by detectives, and were removed to the police station. This sounds like Russia!

Bideford Pavilion was burned down on June 22nd.

The Harrodians' Athletic Club at Mill Lodge was burned on June 26th.

Ballymenoch House, near Holywood, Belfast, the residence of the late Sir Daniel Dickson, valued at £20,000, was destroyed by fire on Friday, July 3rd. Suffragette literature was scattered near.

On June 27th, 29th and 30th buildings were set fire to in Nottingham.

Fires took place at a partially built house in Bath on June 27th, two buildings in Old Kent Road on June 29th, and a timber yard in Edinburgh on July 5th.

MR. ASQUITH'S VISITORS.

At 9 o'clock on Tuesday, June 30th, Mr. Asquith's household were startled to find that two Suffragettes had actually got inside No. 10 Downing Street. The servants hastened to push the visitors outside. One of the women chained herself to the railings saying: "Tell Mr. Asquith we don't want any nonsense about it; of course women are going to get votes, and we want to know *when!*" The police had by this time been summoned, and later in the day Mr. Asquith's visitors were each sent to prison for seven days.

Tubes filled with a black fluid were thrown into most of the Nottingham pillar boxes on the night of June 24th, whilst a number of other boxes were set fire to.

Numbers of telephone wires were cut at Nottingham on June 27th.

Letters in many London pillar boxes were damaged on June 24th.

Suffragettes are said to have done the work in each case. These women, as Mr. John Burns once said of himself, are law breakers because they wish to be law makers.

Mr. Herbert L. Cook who played the organ at a concert given by Madame Clara Butt at the Albert Hall a short time ago, has written to the Press to say that early last month the organ was damaged by Suffragettes who turned on a water tap somewhere up above. It is said that the repairs will cost thousands of pounds.

TRIAL OF NELLIE HALL and GRACE ROE.

Miss Nellie Hall and Miss Grace Roe were on July 9th, sentenced to three month's imprisonment for conspiring to commit malicious damage. The case against Miss Julia Jameson was withdrawn and Mrs. Armes was acquitted.

Miss Hall and Miss Roe were obviously very ill when they were brought into the Central Criminal Court. Miss Hall was supported by two wardresses and Miss Roe was carried in on an invalid chair. All through their long trial these women have unceasingly protested and resisted, in spite of the weakness that has grown on them during their hunger strike and the torture of forcible feeding to which they have been subjected.

Again and again they have been removed from Court and the trial has gone on without them, because they have been too ill to remain, or because their protests have drowned the arguments of Mr. Bodkin.

On Wednesday last, Miss Roe called as a witness Miss Mary Richardson, who was brought out from Holloway prison. Grace Roe said to the Jury "Look at Mary Richardson, see how ill she is!" and asked her why she screamed when she was being forcibly fed. Mr. Justice Avory said that the question must not be answered, but Mary Richardson replied: "The tube would not go through my nose, so they cut my mouth with their finger nails to get it open."

Mr. Justice Avory defended forcible feeding and said that the women had adopted a policy of making the administration of the law impossible.

Several women at the back of the Court protested and were forced to leave.

FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE.

On Sunday, July 5th, Mrs. Dacre Fox whose "Cat and Mouse" license had expired, attended Westminster Abbey when the Bishop of London was preaching. She had previously written to the Bishop saying that she intended to seek sanctuary in the Abbey. During the service she arose and appealed to the Bishop to stop forcible feeding. She was taken outside by the verger and re-arrested under the "Cat and Mouse" Act.

Miss Frances Gordon was on June 23rd sentenced to a year's imprisonment for breaking into Springhall House, Rutherglen, with intent to set it on fire. She was released on July 3rd. Dr. Mabel Jones, who has examined her, has sent a statement in regard to her case, which we publish in another column.

Miss Isabella Alexander, who chained herself to the Wellington Statue, Cornhill, was on June 22nd ordered to be bound over for three months in the sum of £10, and on refusing was sent to prison for seven days.

Maud Edwards was sentenced to three months imprisonment at Edinburgh on July 3rd, for smashing with a hatchet a portrait of the King at the Royal Scottish Exhibition at Edinburgh.

At Carnarvon Sessions on Thursday, July 2nd, Georgina Lloyd and Phyllis North were sentenced to three months' imprisonment for breaking windows during Mr. Lloyd George's visit to Criccieth on June 2nd.

Miss Eileen Casey was brought up at the Nottingham police court on July 2nd, and charged with loitering. On July 9th she was committed for trial for being in possession of dangerous explosives.

Miss Freda Graham was sentenced on May 25th to six months' imprisonment for damaging pictures at the National Gallery. She was released after a hunger and thirst strike of 15 days. Three weeks afterwards she was still too weak to speak above a whisper.

Miss Mary Richardson is still being forcibly fed and, though suffering from appendicitis, the torture has been continued now for more than four weeks.

These women suffer imprisonment that others may be made free.

On July 7th, Mr. Wedgwood asked the Home Secretary whether he had seen the report of Dr. Haden Guest, indicating that Miss Nellie Hall had been tried and sentenced when she was not in a fit condition to plead her own case, and whether, as the jury had recommended her to mercy, he would have her discharged. Mr. McKenna replied that Miss Hall was being forcibly fed, and as he considered her a public danger said: "I am bound to keep her in prison, and so long as I can, alive."

FOR SALE.

There are still two of Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's licenses for sale. What offers?

FOR OUR FUNDS.

A friend is kindly having framed some pencil and water colour drawings, by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, which are to be sold for the funds of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—MRS. IVES,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Our Sunday evening meetings at 400 Old Ford Road are a huge success, but do wish members would come along better to the Members' Meetings, Mondays 3 p.m. and Fridays 8 p.m. We do want to see *all* our members. We had a most pleasant and interesting time at Crowder's Hall last Wednesday with Mrs. Davis as speaker. Will members please come along and bring their friends with them to the Wednesdays there. Also support wanted at Swiss Cottage outdoor meetings on Mondays, 8 p.m. Stall in Roman Road to be opened all day Friday and Saturday next on account of the visitors from over the seas. There will also be an open air meeting in the Roman Road. Our stall is proving a great success; more volunteers wanted to take turns in selling. Don't forget the march to Canning Town, Sunday night next. Bow still leads the way in sale of *Dreadnoughts*. Come along sellers—let us make still greater efforts in selling; we should be seen and known everywhere. Jumble Sale at Crowder's Hall, Monday. Admission by Ticket, 1d. each, to be obtained at 321 Roman Road. Members 3—5 p.m. Non-members 5—6 p.m. Remember all money (2s. 6d.) for Outing of July 26th, must be paid in by 18th.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending July 3rd: Central 353; Bow and Bromley 573; Miss Bennett 130; Miss Cohen 51: Mrs. Crabbe 50; Miss Marks 57; Mrs. Moore 137; Mrs. Payne 61.

Distributed—Mrs. Lansbury 500; Mrs. Burton 500; Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Connell 367; Miss Boyce 500; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne 350; Miss Turner 400; Mrs. Weaver 200; Mrs. Clarke 200; Mrs. Husted 200; Mrs. Mantle 200; Mrs. Hope 200; Miss Vernham 200; Mrs. Watkins 200; Mrs. Lake 50; Mr. Crabbe 50; Mrs. Pascoe 100.

POPLAR.

Organiser—MISS MARY PATERSON.
Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.

Members can get tickets (1d. each) for the Jumble Sale, to be held at Crowder's Hall on Monday next, 3—5 p.m., by applying for them in the office. Good meetings were held in the office on Wednesday and Thursday. It was proposed that in future members and friends who come on Thursday afternoons should bring needlework, to be sold presently for the cause. Please use short time left to help to advertise Canning Town meeting by chalking, bill distributing, etc. Remember that only a week is left in which all the money (2s. 6d.) for the outing of July 26th must be paid in.

Dreadnoughts.—Last week the Misses Lagsding sold 70, Mrs. Bird, 96; this week Miss Winnie Long sold 136, the Misses Lagsding, 50; other members must follow these good examples.

Distributed.

Upper North St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk St. *Helpers*, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cressell, Mrs. Organ—1,500.

Chrisp St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper*, Miss Edy—400.

Kerbey St. Dist. *Captain*, Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerbey St. *Helper*, Mrs. Churcher—200.

Burdett Rd. Dist. Mrs. Walker and Miss Lloyd—300.

Mrs. Hicks, 36 Aberfeldy St.—200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Good members' meeting addressed by Miss Hicks, and people were very enthusiastic about Savings' Bank, Excursion Fund, etc. On Sunday many members went to Women's Hall to hear Dr. Flora Murray, and were much impressed by her lecture on "Forcible Feeding." Will all South West Ham members be at 400 Old Ford Road at 6 o'clock sharp on Sunday to form bodyguard around the lorry in which Miss Pankhurst will ride. Public Hall, Canning Town, at 8. More volunteers are wanted for *Dreadnought* distribution.

147 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending July 3

Canning Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Oliver and Mrs. Tidmarsh.

Plaistow. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors — Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Lawrence.

Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributor—Miss Cox.

Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf.

Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Florrie Nicholas and friends.

Correction—Last week's sales should be 114 and not 101

SOUTH HACKNEY.

Secretary—Miss YOUNG,
100 Greenwood Rd., Dalston.

50 *Dreadnoughts* sold during last two weeks

The *Dreadnought* can now be obtained at the newsagents in Lauriston Road, a few doors from the Swiss Cottage.

Who will pay for Posters of—

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

to be shown at Railway Stations? These cost from 20s. to 30s. a year, and would help the circulation of our Paper tremendously.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.

Hon. Sec.—ERIC W. ROBERTS.
Hon. Organiser—CHARLES A. WILLS, B.A.

Excellent meetings held at "Club Row," Bethnal Green, and other places. There was a splendid rally of members at Hyde Park last Sunday. The speakers next Sunday at "Club Row," at 12 noon, will be: Messrs. Roberts, Clark, Cullen and Jouning. The following Sunday our Victoria Park campaign commences, with Miss Elsa Myers and Mr. Roberts as speakers. This next Tuesday (14th inst.) there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee and District Organisers at Crowder's Hall, Bow Road, at 8 p.m. Members are requested on no account to miss joining the procession from 400 Old Ford Road on Sunday evening, July 12th, at 6 o'clock, to protect Miss Pankhurst from re-arrest.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—MR. J. BONARIUS.

Meetings arranged — Wednesday, July 15th, Ford Road, Bow; 8 p.m. Thursday, July 16th, St. Michael's Church, Bow; 8 p.m. Friday, July 17th, East India Dock Gates, Poplar; 8 p.m.

Excellent meetings held last week at Ford Road and St. Michael's Church.

Tickets for the R.S.P.U. outing to Hastings on Sunday, July 19th, price 4s 9d, including fare and tea, may be obtained from W. Whitelock, 76 Jodrell Rd., and of the Hon. Secretary.

PLAY NURSERY AT THE WOMEN'S HALL.

It has been decided to start a Play Nursery at the Women's Hall, Bow, to be held on Sunday afternoons, in order both to amuse the children and to provide an opportunity for the mothers to be free to take part in processions and demonstrations. The Nurseries will be he held from 3 to 5 p.m., or later when necessary. The Nursery is for children under 10. Mothers are asked to bring their own cushions for babies in arms.

VOTES FOR WOMEN CHOIR.

The practices of the Votes for Women Choir will be held on Thursday evenings, at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow. The Choir is learning Dr. Ethel Smyth's "1910" and "The Women's March." Dr. Smyth's opera "The Wreckers" is to have an elaborate production at the Court Theatre, Munich, in February next, and her new comic opera based on "The Bosun's Mate," a story by W. W. Jacobs, is to be produced at Frankfort-on-Main in March.

FOR OUR FUNDS.

We gratefully acknowledge the following: Mrs Head £1, Mrs Cavendish-Bentinck £2, Miss V Dickinson 1/6, Miss Frisby 2/-, Miss Harley 10/-, Mrs Gow 5/-, Anon £2, Dr Helen Hanson 2/-, Anon £1, Dr Adeline Roberts 10/-, Mrs Bacon 5/-, Mrs K Noakes 1/-, Mrs Richmond 10/6, Mrs Willock 10/-, Miss E Gore-Browne £6, Miss A C Adshead £3/3/-, Anon 10/-, Mrs. Lehmann 5/10, Anon £1, Miss Staley 10/-, Miss Fox 12/6 and ring, Mrs E E Evans 10/-, Mrs Farmer 5/-, Mrs King 2/-, Miss M R Mackenzie £2, Dr. Elizabeth Wilkes £5, Miss Muriel Thompson 10/-, Mrs Hartley Withers £1, Miss Marie Lawson £1, Miss Holmes 5/-, Miss L James 10/-, Mrs E M Morrison £1, Anon (from Dundee) 10/-, Miss Llewellyn Davies £5, Anon £40, Miss Irene Lewisohn £25, Mrs M Cook 10/6, Miss R Aitken 5/-, Mrs Munter £2/14/7, Mrs Meinetzhagen £5, Anon £5, Mary T Arnison 10/-, Miss A M Bain 6/6, Mrs Monck Mason £1, Miss Beatrice Harraden £1, Anon £1, Anon £1/1/-.

SELF DENIAL: Miss G Sheddon 5/-, Mrs Marks £2/2/-, Miss Young 12/0½.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

A sub Post Office assistant pointed out in a letter to the *Daily Citizen* the other day that whilst a laundry company had been fined £7 10s. 0d. for employing a woman for 12 hours with an interval of half-an-hour for dinner, a girl, probably the writer of the letter, had been employed "in a sweltering little post office from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with only a half hour's interval for meals." The writer asked why the laundry was fined for the offence and not the Postmaster General, who is responsible for the sweating of women in London Post Offices. When women have the vote and the power to elect the Members of Parliament from whom the Government is chosen, they will be able to ask that question with effect.

Forty women are on strike at Messrs. Wootton & Co.'s hat factory, Bedworth, Warwickshire.

Women are on strike for an increase of wages at the Bantam Mills, Kilsyth. The fires have been extinguished and the men employees payed off, as the management believe that the dispute will last for some time.

One hundred and twenty women are on strike at Messrs. Chalmers & Co., rag-sorters of Leith. Some of the girls are only getting 7s. a week for doing this very horrible work.

Sir J. Compton Rickett's Select Committee of the House of Commons, have refused to set up a Trade Board to prevent the sweating of Laundry workers. The Committee say that they have not yet enough evidence.

WOMEN PRISON REFORMERS.

New York State recently appointed Dr. Katherine Bement Davis, who has built up the wonderfully successful reformatory for women prisoners on the lines of a technical school, at Bedford Hills, to be Chief Commissioner, both of men's and women's prisons for the whole of New York State. The American "jail" acts as a police court and remand and short sentence prison. The present New York City "jail" is called the Tombs. The women's side of the Tombs is the oldest, and has the worst accommodation. Here large numbers of women are herded together to wait in a single room, without any attempt at classification, and two or more are put to occupy the same cell both day and night, the women's cells being very much smaller than those of the men. In many of the cells there is absolutely no daylight. There is practically no attempt to segregate women suffering from contagious diseases. The medical examination is made in a room into which all the women are crowded, and there is no attempt to separate the women during exercise.

After her inspection of the Tombs, Dr. Davis vigorously denounced the appalling conditions prevailing there. A new "jail" for women, which Dr. Davis insists shall be called not a "jail," but a "Detention Home," is now to be erected. The plans for this have been thought out by Dr. Davis, the Women's Municipal League, and a number of other organisations in which women play a prominent part. In the new "Detention Home" each woman is to be shown to wait in a separate room. The women who have been sentenced are to sleep in separate rooms, which are as unlike cells as possible, and a typical floor in the "Detention Home" will approximate to a hospital or sanitorium rather than a "jail." The rooms are to be arranged twelve on each floor, and the occupants are to be carefully classified in groups. For instance: one group of shop-lifters, another group of old offenders, and so on. Formerly the prison was kept clean by women from the "Workhouse," which in America is also a kind of prison. But Dr. Davis proposes to give all the prisoners "enough to do to keep them normally busy." The tables will be laid and the dishes washed by the women themselves, and the entire work of the floor done by them. Dr. Davis says: "My experience at Bedford Hills has taught me that work is one of the best correctives, and I am certain that the work in this 'Detention Home' can be made interesting." Although the most modern conveniences in the direction of plumbing, lighting, heating, ventilation and sanitation, which have hitherto been denied as too costly, are being fitted in the new "Detention Home," those who have examined the plans of this building say that: in proportion to its capacity there is no jail or prison in New York which has been built at a lower cost per cubic foot. What is the reason of this? On the one hand, there has been much intelligent and careful planning, and on the other, the women have seen to it that there shall be none of the "graft" on the part of the unscrupulous officials and elected persons from which America has so greatly suffered in the past.

A WOMAN DOCTOR APPOINTED FOR AYLESBURY.

Signs of the times are at last beginning to show themselves in the administration of our prisons. In 1908 Dr. Mary Gordon was appointed as the first woman inspector of prisons in this country in response to the agitation of Suffragettes and the revelations of Suffragette prisoners. Now Miss Selina Fox, M.D., late superintendent of the Bermondsey Medical Mission, has been appointed to be lady superintendent and deputy medical officer of the Women's Convict Prison and Girls' Borstal Reformatory, the Preventive Detention Prison and Inebriate Reformatory at Aylesbury.

When Dr. Gordon was appointed she introduced a number of reforms. For the Holloway tin pint-pot, out of which prisoners took their morning gruel, was substituted the earthenware mug; the stool without a back was changed for a chair; for that germ-carrier the wooden spoon was substituted a metal spoon; more important still, sliding panes were fitted to the windows in order that fresh outside air might enter the cells, a thing which had not been known to happen before in Holloway; night dresses and garters were also supplied to the prisoners, and three buttons instead of one were put on to the front of their bodices; sun bonnets were supplied for wear at exercise in mid-summer, because so many prisoners fainted in the yard. These improvements were received with great gratitude by the prison inmates.

Perhaps it is due to the fact that Dr. Gordon is responsible for inspecting every prison in the country, a work which no one could do adequately, that her reforms soon apparently came to an end, although much remains to be done. Perhaps it is due to the fact that the Home Office has refused to allow her to make any changes.

We hope that Dr. Fox, who will be able to exercise a more constant supervision over the institutions under her care and to come into direct personal contact with their inmates, will be able to accomplish very much more than has been possible to Dr. Gordon.

In this week's issue we publish an interesting account of the new women's prison which is being erected under the supervision of Dr. Davis of New York City. The remarkable achievements of Dr. Davis in the field of prison reform are attracting the notice of the most up-to-date criminologists in all parts of the world; but Dr. Davis has not had to contend with our stereotyped and cast-iron Home Office.

We regret that the Home Office has not had the courage to place Miss Fox at the head of the Aylesbury institutions and that she is only to be Deputy Medical Officer and Lady Superintendent, not Governor. This will mean that she will have to appeal always to male superiors, who, if they wish, will have the power to veto any reform that she may suggest.

MAGISTRATE SHOWS COMMON SENSE.

The other day a man who had thrown a kettle in his wife's face and repeatedly beaten her, was sent to prison for three months' hard labour. The man had only been giving his wife a few shillings a week out of his earnings, so that she had been obliged to go out to work to keep herself and her children, as well as caring for the home. When he was placed in the dock the wife-beater cried and said: "Oh, please sir, do not send me away, for the sake of my children!" Mr. Fordham allowed the wife 10s. a week out of the poor box during the man's imprisonment, saying: "I do not allow the wives and children of brutal husbands to suffer." There was applause in court.

Unfortunately, this action of Mr. Fordham's is most exceptional, for it is the usual practice in our country to allow the ill-used or deserted wife and her children to starve or do the best she can for herself.

It is urgently necessary that women should have the political power to make some definite arrangement for all such cases. They will do so when they get the vote.

VOTES FOR WOMEN IN AMERICA.

There is great rejoicing amongst the women of Illinois, the State of which Chicago is the capital. A few weeks ago we published an account of the enthusiasm which prevailed when the newly enfranchised women voters first took part in an election.

Meanwhile, a certain Mr. William J. Scown brought an action to have it declared by the Courts that the granting of votes to women was contrary to the American Constitution. Having lost his case in the Superior Court, he appealed to the Supreme Court, but the case was again decided in favour of the women, and it was said that Mr. Scown had endeavoured to turn the clock back 22 years.

In the State of Missouri it is the law that if 23,000 signatures can be obtained, laws may be submitted to the voters of the State without going through the legislature. The women of Missouri have just secured the 23,000 signatures in support of their enfranchisement. The task was a difficult one owing to the fact that in several counties there are no railroads. The question will be submitted to the voters of Missouri in 1915, and it is practically certain that the women will win their votes.

O BRITONS.

BY AN AMERICAN.

O Britons; for shame; have a care what you do;
The mothers and sisters and daughters, like you,
Are human withal, and are conscious of pain;
Your forcible feeding is surely insane.

O Britons; for shame; the whole world you now vex;
It's a question of brains, not a question of sex.
The nation that meets its best brains with brute force
Goes down to destruction as matter of course.

O Britons; for shame; take your hands off the vote;
It's not yours to hold; your offence we all note.
"British Justice," it seems, is only for men
Born in England, with pedigree, where, and when.

O Britons; for shame; in the light of this age,
Your cat-and-mouse law, would dishonour the page.
A Hottentot solon would make of his work,
You out-herod Herod; you rival the Turk.

O Britons; for shame; call a halt in your course,
And substitute justice for rule of brute force.
The spirit of justice sweeps on round the world,
Its banner of freedom forever unfurled.

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